

## Wetland Mitigation Area D

Area D, on the south side of Rockland Road, is approximately 100 feet east of the Bird-Husbands House and is separated from an existing wetland on the south by an earthen berm (Figure 16). The majority of this area is overgrown with grasses reaching about two feet high and lies at the base of a low terrace on which the house is located. Previous archival research indicates that the house was owner-occupied from about 1816 to 1879 (Taylor 1989:190). The 1860 Agricultural census lists Amos Bird with horses, cows, swine, bushels of wheat, corn, oats, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. After 1879, the structure was rented and functioned as a small farming operation. Previous work around the house did not locate sealed deposits, as much of the nearby yard surface had been leveled and paved (ibid:194). The house (Figures 17 and 18), which still remains standing, is a two and a half story frame structure with a one story frame rear addition. A wide asphalt drive is located on the west side of the structure. At present the house is abandoned and overgrown with trees and low scrubby growth. Considerable amounts of brush and debris have been dumped around the house. The grounds of the Nemours Estate are located to the west.

A 1930s aerial photo of the "Blue Ball Intersection of Foulk and Rockland Roads" (see Figure 4, Aero Service 88.8.214) shows the Bird-Husbands house. There was one auxiliary structure at the back, or south side, of the house. This would have been destroyed or incorporated into the rear addition and garage built onto the house. No other buildings are shown on the land between the house and Alapocas Run; however, it is reputed that a stone and frame bank barn was on the property at the time A. I. DuPont purchased it in 1909 (Brizzolara 1989).

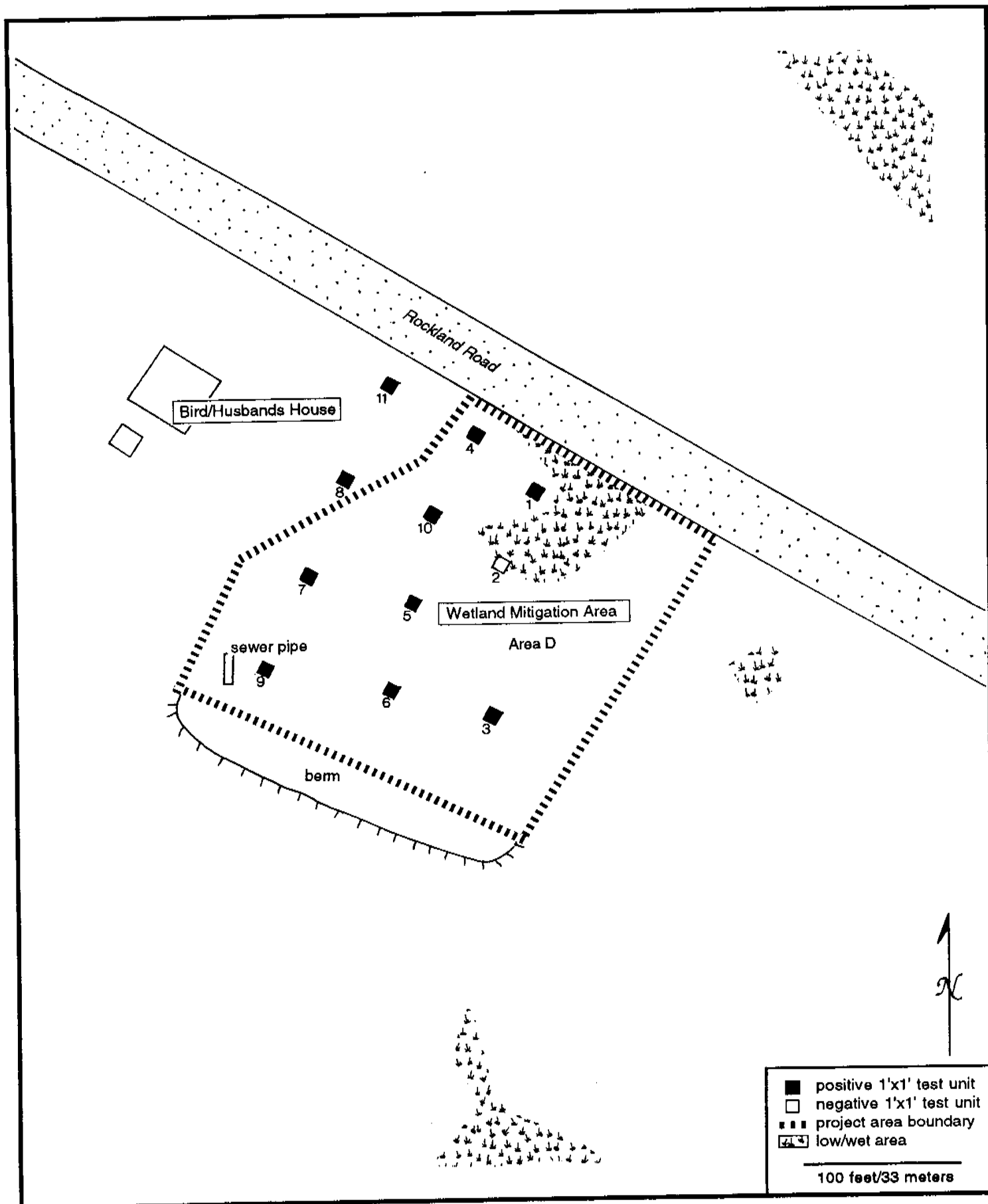
Ten 2.5 foot square test units (TUs 1-10) were excavated. These were spaced at 50 foot intervals in high probability areas, while in locations demonstrating poor drainage, erosion or lower relief the interval was increased to 75 or 100 feet. All units exhibited a one half to one and a half foot thick plowzone overlying the B horizon (Figure 19). All artifacts came from the plowzone. The Ap horizon was a brown [10YR 4/3-5/3] silty loam; the B horizon was a light yellowish brown [10YR 6/4] silty clay. TUs 7, 8, 9 and 11 were excavated at 50 foot intervals along the western edge of Area D closest to the Bird-Husbands House. It was thought that an artifact scatter and/or sealed deposits such as features or buried yard surfaces related to the house might be encountered. The artifacts recovered from these four units consisted of three lime soda windowpane fragments (post-1864), brick fragments, oyster shell fragments, a piece of a slate pencil, an undated aqua bottle fragment, a stoneware tile fragment, nine whiteware sherds, a redware sherd, and two pearlware sherds (1780-1820). Two quartz flakes were also recovered from TU 7.

TUs 4, 5, 6 and 10 were excavated across the center of Area D. All of these test units had a soil profile exhibiting an Ap horizon overlying B horizon soil. TUs 4 and 10, on slightly higher terrain, produced the greatest quantity of artifacts. Three whiteware sherds, seven redware sherds, a fragment of peacock bottle glass (1850s-1880), a soda/lime windowpane fragment, coal, styrofoam, brick fragments, and a nail fragment were recovered from TU 4. TU 10 yielded a kaolin pipe stem fragment, two redware sherds, a porcelain sherd, an amber bottle fragment, four soda/lime windowpane fragments, brick and plaster fragments, and a cut nail fragment (post-1790) (Figure 20). The plow zone ranges from one to one and a half feet in depth. TU 5 was excavated at the base of the terrace on which the Bird-Husbands House is located (Figure 21). A redware sherd, a whiteware sherd, two cast iron fragments, two nail fragments, brick fragments, a lime soda window pane fragment, and an amber bottle glass fragment were recovered. A jasper Jack's Reef projectile point

was also recovered (Figure 22); this dated to the late Middle to early Late Woodland period. TU 6 yielded three redware sherds, a Rockingham/Bennington sherd, a pearlware sherd, a whiteware sherd, and a post-1910 bottle fragment.

TUs 1, 2 and 3 were excavated along the eastern edge of Area D; again, all showed a plowzone overlying the B horizon. TU 1, around 50 feet from the road, produced a redware sherd, two whiteware sherds, a glass lamp chimney fragment (post-1892), a lime soda windowpane fragment, a piece of aluminum and three cut nail fragments. The excavation of TU 2 yielded no artifacts; the soils here displayed some gleying. The project map shows a patch of wetlands within the area that may be contributing to the poorer drainage. TU 3 yielded refined white earthenware, seven pieces of whiteware, a creamware sherd, an amber bottle sherd, seven lime soda windowpane sherds (post-1864), a nail fragment, brick fragments and furnace slag fragments.

The historic artifacts are almost certainly scatter related to the Bird-Husbands house, but no features or buried yard surfaces were identified. The single prehistoric artifact recovered from Area D is considered to be an isolated find, and is probably indicative of transient use of the area by prehistoric peoples. No further work is recommended in Area D.



**FIGURE 16**  
**Portion of Project Map Showing Excavations Within Wetland Mitigation Area D**



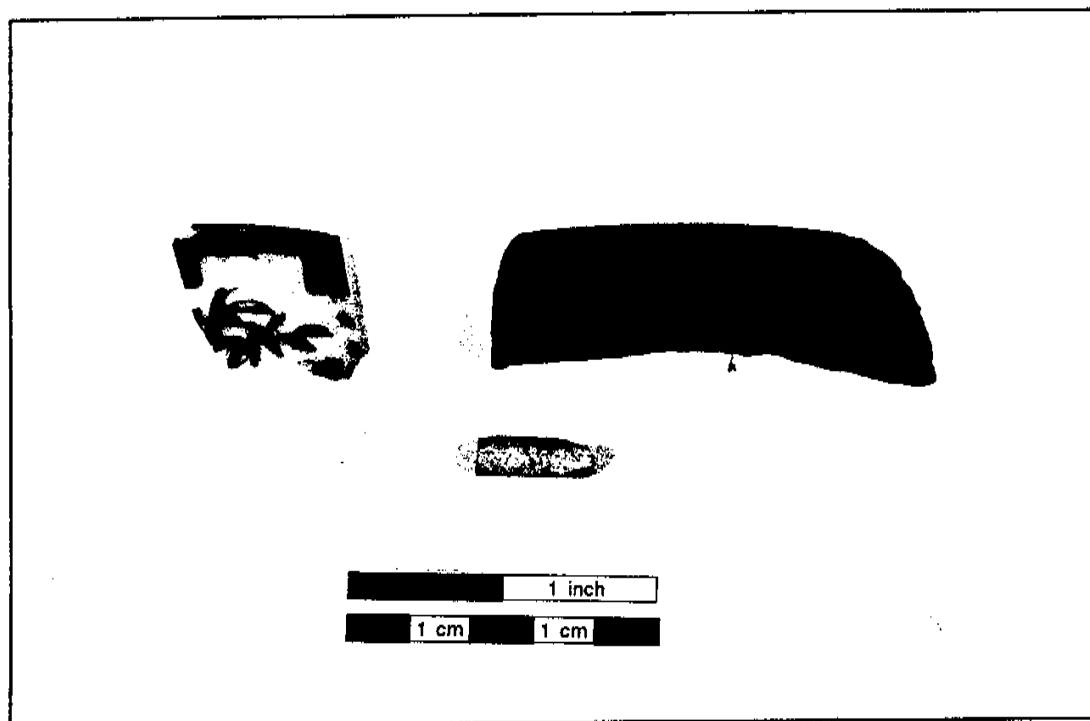
**FIGURE 17**  
**The Bird-Husbands House, Looking Southeast**



**FIGURE 18**  
**Looking East at the Bird-Husbands House**



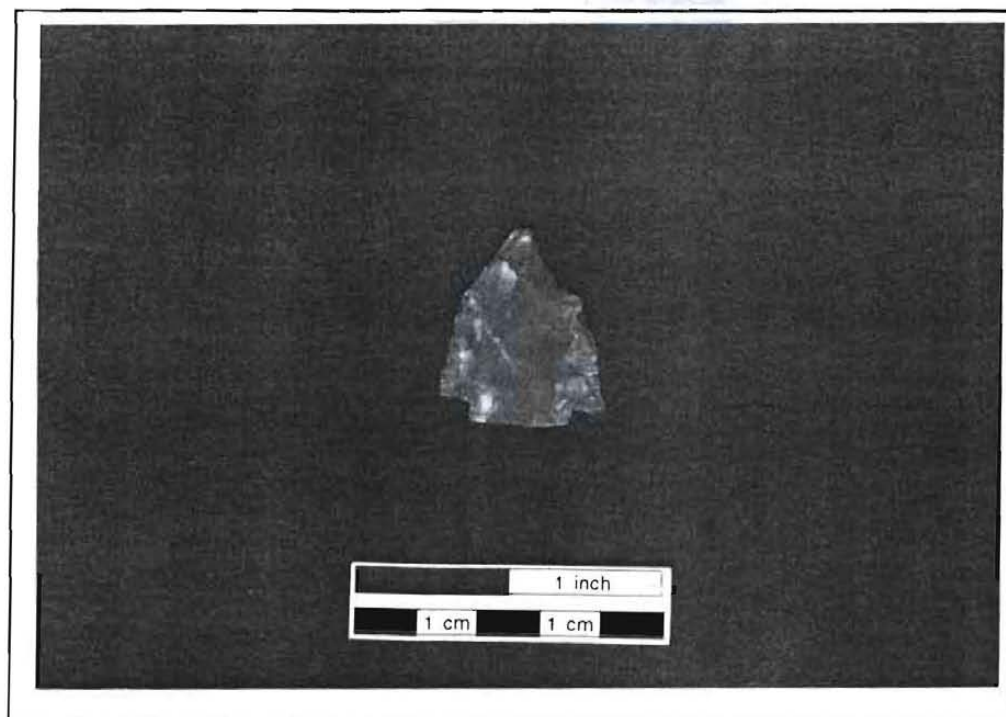
**FIGURE 19**  
**Wetland Mitigation Area D**  
**Typical Ap Over B Soil Profile**



**FIGURE 20**  
**Wetland Mitigation Area D**  
**Porcelain Sherd, Redware Rim Sherd, and Kaolin Pipe Stem Fragment**  
**from Test Unit 10**



**FIGURE 21**  
**Wetland Mitigation Area D**  
 Looking West at Terrace on Which the Bird-Husbands House Is Located;  
 Test Unit 5 Was Excavated at the Base of the Terrace



**FIGURE 22**  
**Wetland Mitigation Area D**  
 Jasper Jack's Reef Point from Test Unit 5